



REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
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MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2004

REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 2004-2005 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND DUES

Officers: President: Councilmember Bev Perry, Brea • First Vice President: Councilmember Ron Roberts, Temecula • Second Vice President: Supervisor Hank Kuiper, Imperial County • Past President: Councilmember Ronald Bates, Los Alamitos

Imperial County: Hank Kuiper, Imperial County • Jo Shields, Brawley

Los Angeles County: Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Los Angeles County • Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County • Harry Baldwin, San Gabriel • Paul Bowlen, Cerritos • Tony Cardenas, Los Angeles • Margaret Clark, Rosemead • Gene Daniels, Paramount • Mike Dispenza, Palmdale • Judy Dunlap, Inglewood • Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles • Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles • Frank Gurulé, Cudahy • James Hahn, Los Angeles • Janice Hahn, Los Angeles • Isadore Hall, Compton • Sandra Jacobs, El Segundo • Tom LaBonge, Los Angeles • Bonnie Lowenthal, Long Beach • Martin Ludlow, Los Angeles • Keith McCarthy, Downey • Llewellyn Miller, Claremont • Cindy Miskowski, Los Angeles • Paul Nowatka, Torrance • Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica • Alex Padilla, Los Angeles • Bernard Parks, Los Angeles • Jan Perry, Los Angeles • Beatrice Proo, Pico Rivera • Ed Reyes, Los Angeles • Greig Smith, Los Angeles • Dick Stanford, Azusa • Tom Sykes, Walnut • Paul Talbot, Alhambra • Sidney Tyler, Pasadena • Tonia Reyes Uranga, Long Beach • Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles • Dennis Washburn, Calabasas • Jack Weiss, Los Angeles • Bob Yousefian, Glendale • Dennis Zine, Los Angeles

Orange County: Chris Norby, Orange County • Ronald Bates, Los Alamitos • Lou Bone, Tustin • Art Brown, Buena Park • Richard Chavez, Anaheim • Debbie Cook, Huntington Beach • Cathryn DeYoung, Laguna Niguel • Richard Dixon, Lake Forest Alta Duke, La Palma • Bev Perry, Brea • Tod Ridgeway, Newport Beach

Riverside County: Marion Ashley, Riverside County • Thomas Buckley, Lake Elsinore • Bonnie Flickinger, Moreno Valley Ron Loveridge, Riverside • Greg Pettis, Cathedral City • Ron Roberts, Temecula

San Bernardino County: Paul Biane, San Bernardino County • Bill Alexander, Rancho Cucamonga • Edward Burgnon, Town of Apple Valley • Lawrence Dale, Barstow • Lee Ann Garcia, Grand Terrace • Susan Longville, San Bernardino • Gary Ovitt, Ontario • Deborah Robertson, Rialto

Ventura County: Judy Mikels, Ventura County • Glen Becerra, Simi Valley • Carl Morehouse, San Buenaventura • Toni Young, Port Hueneme

Orange County Transportation Authority: Charles Smith, Orange County

Riverside County Transportation Commission: Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission: Bill Davis, Simi Valley

The General Fund (GF) is the only financial resource for working capital, support Regional Council (RC) and Committee meetings, travel, RC meeting stipends, and the Annual General Assembly and Retreat. It also supports our Federal and State lobbying costs, on our line of credit and rapid pay fees to Caltrans, capital acquisitions, and all legal fees, which are not otherwise allowable to be charged to grant funds by Federal and State administrative rules.

The proposed budget substantially maintains the current activities funded by the General Fund. However due to improved cash management and position, the proposed budget includes interest expense of \$250,000, which is \$45,000 less than the amount budgeted for interest and Rapid Pay in Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

Dues Adjustments – The Regional Council approved an automatic Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment in dues that was previously adopted by the General Assembly in 2001. The dues increase called for an annual CPI index adjustment with a minimum increase of 1% effective July 1, 2001. The impact of the smaller dues would increase require a reduction in General Fund items, but would reduce the amount of surplus funds available for working capital and extend the use of the Line of Credit

FY 2005 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

One of the successes of the Southern California Transportation Delegation has been the presentation of Southern California's transportation needs with a clear and united voice. The Delegation, comprised of SCAG and the region's county transportation commissions, has focused its efforts to date on the reauthorization of TEA-21, the federal surface transportation program.

To continue the work of the Delegation beyond the reauthorization, SCAG has encouraged the Delegation to consolidate its FY 2004-2005 federal transportation appropriations requests into a single document that could be mutually submitted to Congress. The show of agreement and support, it is hoped, would enhance the region's receipt of federal funds beyond what individual agencies could obtain.

S.1555 (Boxer) CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE ACT

The bill designates 2.5 million acres and the free-flowing portions of 22 rivers as "wilderness" and "wild and scenic" respectively. These designations restrict some future uses of the land and rivers, but allow the continuation of most presently permissible uses. Presentations were made in support of and in opposition to the bill, and SCAG staff recommended a support in concept position consistent with the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide's goals of Outdoor Recreation, Resource Protection and Resource Production. The Regional Council voted to **Watch** S.1555.